critical digest

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EL 5-6894 T.M. Kraus

Nov 28,1960 Vol XII No 36 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-11th year Published 52 weeks a year $25 per year

This Week in NYC

Broadway will give the 7 30 PM Wed curtain a second chance this season when The Best Man and Toys in the Attic resume the early starting time Nov 30. Producers Roger Stevens and Kermit Bloomgarden stated that they believe suburban residents will benefit by the special service. Latter noted that veto of League of NY Theatre's test after only six weeks trial took place while he was in Europe. Bloomgarden also noted that of the six weeks test-Sept 7-Nov 2, Toys in the Attic sold out three Wed, while other three Wed were low due to a railroad strike, a holiday, and a hurricane. Off Broadway Phoenix Theatre continues its 7 30 PM curtain Wed advertising its current show She Stoops to Conquer ends at 10 05 PM.

Plays

15 productions played Thanksgiving day matinees... A Thurber Carnival closed after 224 performances... The Hostage to move Dec 12 to O Neill ... Catstick a new play by Jack Barefield will be presented and directed by Elaine Perry Jan 24 co-starring Donald Davis and Patricia Jessel... How to Make A Man new comedy by Bill Welch based on story by Clifford Simak will be presented in Jan, directed by Harry Horner with Jan Sterling, Vicki Cummings, Tom Noonan. ... Carte Blanche new musical by George Abbott and as yet unnamed collaborator to be presented in May at Shubert by Robert Griffith-Harold Prince with Abbott as director, lyrics by Marshall Barer, music by Mary Rodgers... Of Love and Death dramatization of a Hemingway story by A. E. Hotchner will be presented in fall starring Rod Steiger, directed by Frank Corsaro.

Players

Carol Taylor has replaced Carol Lawrence, West Side Story, who has portrayed lead role for three years... Susan Johnson to star in Donnybrook, musical version of "The Quiet Man" film.

Theatre Ad Notes

Advise and Consent display ad series in NY Times reprinted in full the rave notices of Herald Tribune, News, Journal American... Tennessee Williams and Brendan Behan were thanked in Krapp's Last Tape display ad for kind mentions on WNTA Open End discussion.

Drama Desk

"Back Stage" new weekly casting newspaper starts publication Dec 4, published and edited by Allen Zwerdling and Ira Eaker, for 15 years associated with "Show Business."

NYC Calendar

The Sheperd's Chameleon-De Lys De Lys 11/29 matinee only. Greater NY Chapter of ANTA Matinee Series third production features new Eugene Ionesco play. Plus symposium on " Do Our Contemporary Playwrights Speak a Universal Language" with Ionesco and Robert Brustein, New Republic.

All the Way Home- Belasco 11/30 Fred Coe-Arthur Cantor present dramatization of late James Agee's novel " A Death in the Family" by Tad Mosel, directed by Arthur Penn with Colleen Dewhurst, Arthur Hill, Aline MacMahon, Lillian Gish.

Little Moon of Alban-Longacre 12/1. Mildred Freed Alberg presents new drama by James Costigan based on his own TV play, directed by Herman Shumlin with Julie Harris, Barbara O'-Neil, Robert Redford, John Justin.

Camelot- Majestic- 12/3. Alan Jay Lerner -Frederick Loewe-Moss Hart present new musical by Lerner & Loewe based on T.H. White's "The Once and Future King" directed by Lerner with Julie Andrews, Richard Burton, Roddy McDowall.

Emmanuel -Gate- 12/4. Gate Repertory Company presents third production of season. New play by James Forsyth, staged by Matt Conley.

NY Shakespeare

12 week summer season planned by NY Shakespeare Festival to open Jun 19 with Richard II. Romeo and Juliet and A Midsummer Night's Dream will complete season at new $250,000 Belvedere Tower amphitheatre, Joe Papp to direct first two, Gerald Freedman to direct latter... Touring company of Romeo and Juliet of NY Shakespeare Festival will begin visits to NY high schools Jan 2 and will continue to May. Additional bookings within one hour travel time from NY are being sought.

NY Church Drama

Broadway Chapel Players will open seventh season Dec 4 with 12 Sun 5 PM performances of El Melagro by Manuel Mendez Ballester, staged by Bill Penn with Richard Woods, Michale Enserro... Blackfriar's Guild next play will be Connelly vs Connelly by Brendan Larnen starting in Feb.

Off Broadway

Shows that closed include-- She Stoops to Conquer and Man and Superman, both on schedule to make way for next repertory programs at Phoenix and Gate... Twin bill of Krapp's Last Tape and The Zoo Story to continue at Cricket under solo sponsorship of original co-producer Harry Joe Brown, Jr for at least eight more weeks... Stewed Prunes now playing six times weekly at Circle in Square, Tues to Fri at 12 midnight, Mon at 8 40 and Sat at 3.

The Rules of the Game by Pirandello will be presented by Stage Society Dec 18 at Gramercy Arts directed by EW Swackhamer with Joanna Merlin, William Windom, Paul Sparer... There Was Play Tonight written by Ferenc Molnar in 1950 but just discovered last year will be presented in Jan by Joyce Henry-Rosemary Murray.

Julian Beck replaced Leonard Hicks, The Connection ... Jen Jones replaced Pauline Flanagan, Drums under the Windows ... Burke McHugh returned to Greenwich Village, USA after brief illness, James Eiler subbed... Robert Stattel added to When I Was A Child ... Vincent Romeo replaced George Morgan, La Ronde, who joined Borak.

Theatre Tv Notes

"An Age of Kings" BBC- TV series on history of England as seen through Shakespeare's plays will be presented starting Jan 10 on WNEW-TV(NY) and WTTG(Washington, DC) by Standard Oil Co. Each program, starting with Richard II, will be telecast twice weekly, Tues at 8 PM and Suns at 10 PM.

"Great Plays in Rehearsals" series presented on WPIX (NY) Tues at 12 noon started Nov 22 with Candida ... CBS TV "The Gershwin Years" moved from Jan 8 to Jan 15... WNTA Play of Week Nov 28 is New Faces 1952 Leonard Sillman revue with original cast members Ronnie Graham, Robert Clary, June Carroll, Virginia de Luce, Paul Lynde.

Theatre Film Notes

Jumbo film version of Billy Rose musical to be presented by Joe Pasternak.

Theatre Record Notes

17 single side records already made of Unsinkable Molly Brown songs in addition to original cast album by Capitol Records.

((Late News & Reviews--Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Whisper to Me- Players Theatre (115 MacDougal) 11/21 1 pro- Times- and 4 con- Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new play by Greer Johnson based on William Goyen's short story " The Letter in the Cedar Chest" presented by Manya Starr, directed by Marcella Cisney with Ruth White, Dorothy Sands, Mary Finney. Sole affirmative vote was mild approval of shy whisper of talent of authors, who have honest sympathy for people, and for trio of fine female performances given with such vividness that play remains afloat even when it should subside in the folksy goo. Negative voters agreed female leads were excellent, but blamed weak structure of play for its failure. Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, noted play, brittle and constantly in danger of serious fracture, was held together by solidity of its cast, but creaking old bones finally do break. Herridge, Post, thought odd play collapsed in middle due to whimsey getting too outlandish and fey. McClain, Journal American, agreed that three actresses were brilliant, but he just could not get interested in play that nobody did anything to anybody. Aston, WTS, followed advice of three young male players who thought play was coming to end and just scrammed.

Marcus in the High Grass- Greenwich Mews-(141 W 13) 11/21. 1 pro- World Telegram & Sun- and 4 cons- Times, Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American. Mild pro notice for new play by young Negro actor Bill Gunn rated him as a new writer of promise. Presented by Stella Holt- Carl Salmaggi-George White, staged by Brian Shaw with Burt Brinckerhoff, David Ford, Eulabie Noble. WTS aisle-sitter admired lines and whole sections that showed sensitivity that arises on occasions to the poetic, though he admitted situation conducive to melodramatics with the audience almost as exhausted at the play's end as the cast. Negative views included three pannings of play, players and direction and one milder con. O Connor, Journal American, filed latter listing players as better than play. Gelb, Times, panned new first play strongly influenced by the worst of Miller, Williams, Inge and Dr. Freud with acting up to the standards of play, and direction and scenery helping to advance same mood. Kerr, Herald Tribune, vetoed jumping bean of drama in which whole company tends to leap and subside, shout and murmur, stop and start as violently as though they had rehearsed in a NY taxi-cab. Watts, Post, rated it tedious, ineffectual and not far from interminable. Though central roles not easy ones to play, he could not say the actors triumphed over all their problems.

Mother's Sabbath Days- Folksbiene Playhouse (175 E Broadway)- 11/18/ 4 pro- Times, News, Post, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new Yiddish play presented week-ends only by Folksbiene Playhouse. Adapted and staged by David Licht from Chain Grade's novel with Mina Kern, Joshua Zeldis, Michael Neiditch. Shepard, Times, recommended group of beautiful portraits of East European Jewry presented by the 46 year old group, though play as whole does not have continuous dramtic force one might expect from situation. News reporter enjoyed picturesque, well acted Yiddish drama, a stirring piece that is a worthy successor to the Yiddish art type productions established by Maurice Schwartz. Rosenberg, Post, also okayed fine acting, but had reservations on slow-moving story and slightly unsympathetic characters. Krisher, WTS, approved of fine adaptation which is easy to understand with the English program notes. Production is to be presented Fri, Sat, Sun for the next 20 week-ends.

((Late Reviews--- Supplement))

INTER-VIEW HI-LITES

TAMMY GRIMES, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, is so nervous each night before she goes on stage she unashamedly keeps the critics' reviews on her dressing table to remind her that no matter how bad things get, some important people think she has prospects, she told Weshba, Post, Age 26 she is without any more pretense than a 26 year old actress is entitled to. She is mercurial in judgment, uncertain of her sudden fame, jealous of her privacy and positive that life has one essential meaning to her--to do what she wants to do... Actress loses three pounds at each performance and gains them back with big breakfasts, she told Mok, World Telegram & Sun. Actress also has desire to see scene in current show in which she and two others row boat away from Titanic, as it took her a month to learn to row properly.

MOLLY KAZAN, author of Rosemary and The Alligators, marks playwriting as hard, tedious work and her two playlets a retreat from ultra-realistic trend of current theatre, she told Connors, WTS. She is not happy about the growing departmentalization of theatre today. Years ago everyone involved with a production would get together to discuss direction, script changes, and costumes. Today, everyone does his own job and directors seem to think the only good playwright is a dead one.

ARTHUR LAURENTS, author of Invitation to a March, admits that in A Clearing in the Woods script he had a pretty clear notion of what he was trying to say, but the production baffled him almost as much as it did the critics, he told Ross, Herald Tribune.

HAL HOLBROOK, Mark Twain Tonight!, just back from State Dept sponsored tour of Europe with his one man show, wonders why we don't send more American language plays, he told Calta, Times. He feared the first performances he did in English, but found if he spoke clear and slowly the audiences all laughed in the same spots as American audiences. Actor also questioned why US sends such foolish motion pictures on the American scene abroad.

BEHAN THEATRE ADVICE

Brendan Behan, author of The Hostage, lectured on the virtues of theatre as a career on WNTA-TV (NY) American Academy of Dramatic Arts Seminar. Answering questions from student actors, the playwright pointed out that they had a great deal to be proud of in the theatre, the field they have choosen to enter. They must, of course, expect it to be a thorny road and that people will give them indulgent smiles until their names get in the right newspaper columns, when at that time they will get a different kind of smile which means a sure request for free tickets.

Without theatre in some form or another life cannot go on, Behan continued. Question is not if we should have theatre or no theatre, but if we shall have good theatre or bad theatre. Gresham's Law applied to theatre shows that if the people do not get good live theatre related to life they get theatre concerned with police helping people across the street, etc. Theatre must capture life, and this makes actors very important people because they must make life a little more understandable for others in this insecure life.

As to his own plays he never puts any symbolic meanings in them, playwright explained. But he has developed a reputation inspite of his double chins, his Irish accent and no teeth of being very witty for merely saying what he feels. As a man of theatre who spend his boyhood backstage at his uncle's Dublin playhouse, Behan believes he knows more about theatre than any other serious writer.

GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

BANKRUPT BWAY... Broadway seems emotionally and intellectually bankrupt, charges Crosby, Herald Tribune. Last year was a disaster, this year may be another. Two years of this impoverishment seems to have demoralized the critics. Only such an unprecedented dry spell could have won such enthusiasm for an exceedingly small puddle, Period of Adjustment, the sort of pained situation comedy Crosby fled from on TV. Quality of the long range hits is even more disturbing because it will drive theatre-goers permanently away from the box-office. Gypsy, Sound of Music, Fiorello! all have wooden pedestrian books, were put together by old pros and are well-carpentered. But for $9.90 columnist thinks audience expects more than carpentry. All three hits are old men's dramatizations, tired, sentimental, jaded, derivative, structurally sound but totally devoid of imagination or vitality.

COLUMN TIPS... Tennessee Williams watches Period of Adjustment nightly from a balcony seats, reports Wilson, Post... Jo Van Fleet was tutored by Sylvana Mangano for her Italian accent in The Alligators, notes Lyons, Post

OFF BWAY RULES... The lines seem to be clearly drawn between the type of attraction that will support the mounting costs of Broadway as opposed to the more experimental ventures away from the beaten track, details McClain, Journal American. Critic applauded entry of Roger Stevens, producer of Rosemary and The Alligators, to the Off Broadway ranks. Current Off Broadway musical hits might not have lasted at all uptown, while the drama hits downtown, such as The Balcony and The Connection, might have been regarded less than tasteful on W 45th St.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Attack on Lincoln Center Repertory company two years prior to opening by Robert Brustein (Dec-Harper's) may prove again that there is nothing like a good feud to get the fabulous invalid off the sick-bed, comments Coleman, Mirror... Watts, Post, thought it a shame that Kukla Burr and Ollie show by Burr Tillstrom did not have the NY success it deserved... Anthony Quinn who is reported as saying he respects English audiences more than US audiences was urged by Kilgallen, Journal American, to go to England and be loved by those superior British fans who will only provide him with a sleazy fraction of his current salary in Beckett.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "Uncorking Old Sherry" biography of Richard Sheridan by Oscar Sherwin (Twayne $6) recommended by Aston, World Telegram & Sun as filled with wit and suavity... "The Bad Tempered Man or the Misanthrope" by Menander, translated by Philip Vellacott (Oxford $3) rated as a scholarly and readable version of 317 B.C. play which was recently discovered.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... Camelot music only on Time Stereo with Hugo Montenegro's orchestra, 50 strong, stands by itself without even knowing what the lyrics might be, okays Watt, News. Original cast recording will be released after Broadway opening by Columbia Records.

LONDON STAGE VIEWS... "Lunchtime Theatre" project of Mermaid Theatre which presented 40 minute film programs and quick service lunch should be extented by other producers, suggests "Stage" editorial. British trade journal program ideas include--minature revues, short playlets, Grand Guignol.

PROS & CONS BY TMK

Advise and Consent is an exciting melodrama of practical politics, brilliantly acted and ingeniously staged. The audience cannot help but become personally involved in the final decision even though they may not agree with the obvious political leanings of the author. The stageful of top male leading players gives strength and humanity to a script that in lesser hands might have seemed thin, their ensemble technique shows professional acting at its best, and not a scene stealer in the pack. The details of contemporary Senate politics becomes fascinatingly realistic and as frightening as the most horrifying crime story.

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Marcus in the High Grass is a first play by a talented young Negro actor that needs drastic editing, a new sense of direction and a much quieter production. Several of the nice, quiet scenes were quite charming, but they were outshouted by the majority of over-acted, meandering, repetitive scenes that lend no insight into the characters of this mixed- up Southern family.

* *

Whisper To Me is an earth-bound fantasy that inspite of solid performances by Dorothy Sands, Ruth White and Mary Finney in what only can be described as "kooky" roles never seems to be as much fun as it was intended to be. The author suggests the charming madness of the trio, but he tends to describe too many of their offstage affairs instead of letting the audience judge for itself.

* *

Return of early curtains on Wed by two productions is a welcome gift tosuburban residents who were just about getting ready to take advantage of the service when it was cancelled. Before locking themselves into the 7 30 PM Wed slot the producers involved might spend time and money profitably if they back an accurate survey to determine the best day of the week, and the best starting time for the market they are trying to attract.

* *

Holiday matinee business on Broadway is almost always good, baring bad weather. This might give a clue to producers of shows that are not regularly selling out Wed and Thur matinees that a shift of day to Fri or Mon might be successful. Every week-end thousands of theatre buffs arrive for a full week-end of theatre on all-expense paid theatre trips. Shifting mid-week matinees to time periods that might entice this regular theatre business could materially aid all involved, and except for the long-suffering actor forced to do a performance at an unusual time it could not possibly hurt anybody.

* *

Thanks to Tammy Grimes critics are here to stay. In the eternal verbal war between performers and reviewers almost no player has had a kind word for the critics. The fabulous young star uses the rave notices for her new show to bolster her ego before going onstage, a giant step upward from many players use of reviews as garbage can liners.

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Nov 28,1960 THEATRE FACT CHART--CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47 ,NYC EL 5-6894
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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back its investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past week and preceding weeks. Thus- 100% B- Cap $80--$80 $76 $74- means show was a sellout last week at $80,000, the previous week's gross was $76,000, etc

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ADVISE & CONSENT Cort $7.50 11/17/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	70% C- 2 Con- Times, Post-4 raves Cap $40
BECKET St James $7.50 10/5/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 4 raves- 1 Con- Times 100% B- Cap $59--$57 $56 $54 $56 $57
BEST MAN Morosco $7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 75% B- Cap $40--$34 $30 $35 $40 $40
BYE BYE BIRDIE 54th St $8.60 4/14/60	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves 95% B- Cap $60--$57 $47 $55 $58 $58
FIORELLO! Broadhurst $9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 100% B- Cap $58--$57 $51 $6 $58 $58
49th COUSIN Ambass $6.90 10/27/60	215 W 49 CO 5-1855	30% C- 2 Pro- Times, News 65% B - Cap $32--$22 $25 $23
GYPSY Imperial $9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 80% B - Cap $64--$47 $44 $49 $51 $59
HOSTAGE Barrymore $7.50 9/20/60	247 W 47 CI 6-0390	60% C- 4 Pro- H Trib, Post, Mir, WTS 50% B- Cap $40--$18 $22 Moved Cort
INVITATION TO MARCH M Box $7.50 10/29/60	239 W 45 CI 5-9850	30% C- 2 Pro- News, J Am 55% B - Cap $40--$24 $30 $27
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth $8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 100% B- Cap $49--$49 $49 $49 $49 $49
LA PLUME Royale $8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 75% B - Cap $45--$37 $28 $35 $37 $40
MIKE & ELAINE Golden $6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 100% B- Cap $30--$30 $28 $30 $30 $31
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse $7.50 10/19/60	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves- Times, WTS milder 95% B - Cap $36--$33 $30 $32 $34 $36
MUSIC MAN Broadway $8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 50% B - Cap $73--$34 $35 $36 $48 $38
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play- News OK P Char. 65% B - Cap $70--$45 $44 $48 $50 $56
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Hayes $7.50 11/10/60	206 W 46 CI 6-6380	70% C- 2 Con- Times, WTS 75% B - Cap$43--$33
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt $9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $75--$75 $75 $75 $76 $76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert $9.40 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir- 2 raves-News, WTS 50% B - Cap $64--$32 $35 $31 $40 $48
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum $6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	80% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 65% B - Cap $32--$26 $24 $22 $24 $23
TENDERLOIN 46th St $8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro- News, WTS (raves) 100% B- Cap $64--$62 $55 $62 $62 $61
TENTH MAN Booth $7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-Times, News 50% B- Cap $32--$16 $18 $16 $20 $22
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson $7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 50% B - Cap $40--$21 $21 $20 $24 $25
UNDER YUM YUM Miler $7.50 11/16/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	40% C- 3 Pro- Times, News, WTS 65% B - Cap $33--$21
UNSINKABLE M BROWN W Garden $9.40 11/3/60	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	70% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 95% B Cap $68--$63 $56
THE WALL Rose $7.50 10/11/60	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 Pro-raves-Times, News, WTS 50% B Cap $46--$22 $18 $18 $22 $25
WEST SIDE STORY Alvin $8.05 4/27/60	250 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 60% B - Cap $55--$29 $35 $29 $33 $39

"CD PROS & CONS "

PROS: All current On & Off Bway except following----

CONS: 49th Cousin, Invitation to March, Tenderloin, Sound of Music, Tenth Man
La Ronde, Marcus in High Grass, Whisper to Me

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle $4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
DANCE OF DEATH Key $3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
DEEP ARE ROOTS St Marks $3.60 10/3/60	133-2nd Av OR 4-3530	5 Pro- 1 Con- Post- No Mirror
DREAM PLAY T. East $3.60 11/22/60	211 E 60 TE 2-9220	See Supplement for Digests
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C Lane $4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm CH 2-4289	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
GREENWICH VILLAGE USA 1 Sher Sq $4.50 9/28/60	1 Sher Sq UN 9-1334	5 Pro- 1 Con- Times-No Mirror review
FANTASTICKS Sullivan $4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HEDDA GABLER 4th St $4.60 11/9/60	83 E 4 AL 4-4795	7 Pro- Unanimous raves for Anne Meacham
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Cricket $4.60 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee $3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All Mild- No Mirror
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq $5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum $4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
MARCUS HI GRASS G. Mews $4.50 11/21/60	141 W 13 CH 3-6880	1 Pro- WTS 4 Con- Times, H Trib, Post, J Am
MOUSETRAP Maidman $5.75 11/5/60	416 W 42 BR 9-3970	5 Pro- 2 Con- News, WTS
MY SON & I Anderson $4.60 10/22/60	66-2nd Av OR 4-1076	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, News, Post Yiddish-English musical
PREMISE Premise $4.60 11/22/60	154 Bleecker WA 4-8782	See Supplement for Digests
ROSEMARY & ALLIGATORS York $4.60 11/14/60	64 & 1st TR 9-4130	5 Pro 1 Con- No Journal American
STEWED PRUNES Circle $2 11/14/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	Tu-Fr Midnite M 8 30- Sat -3 PM 3 Con- Times, H Trib, WTS
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.95 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
WHISPER TO ME Players $4.50 11/21/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	1 Pro- Times 4 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am, WTS
LIVING THEATRE Living $3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection- 5 Con-1 Pro- Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

All the Way Home- Belasco- 11/30
Little Moon Alban- Longacre 12/1
Camelot- Majestic- 12/3
Emmanuel- Gate 12/4
El Melgro- Bway Chapel 12/4
Send Me No Flowers-Atkinson 12/5
Plough & Stars- Phoenix 12/6
Love & Libel- Beck- 12/7
When I Was Child- 41st St 12/8
Borak- Martinque- 12/13
Critics Choice- Barrym 12/14
Wildcat- Alvin- 12/15
Jungle of Cities- Living 12/16
Rules of Game- Gram Arts 12/18
Donogoo- G Mews- 12/21
What a Killing- York (?)- 12/22
Do Re Mi- St James- 12/26
Beautiful Dreamer- Mad Av 12/27

Conquering Hero- ANTA 1/5
Rhinoceros- 1/5
Show Girl- 1/12
Love & Death- 1/15
Julia, Jake & Uncle Joe 1/19
Catstick- 1/24
Midgie Purvis- 1/26

I'm With You- 2/1
Medium Rare- 2/6
Faust- C Center 2/7
Once Was Russian- 2/8
13 Daughters- 2/9
Comedie Francaise-C Center 2/21
The Caretaker- Miller 2/?
Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/?

Donnybrook- 3/17
Carnival- 4/13
Carte Blanche-Shubert 5/?

CD

__$25 check

__ Bill Co.

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE--now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals --college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive editorial coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryouts via mail, phone. $25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956- $25 per year. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

Name.....Address.....

Organization..... City, State.....

OUTER BROADWAY

THEATRE LETTER

College------Community---- Summer

Nov 28, 1960 Vol XII No 36 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest"-139E 47, NYC El 5-6894-$25 per year for full "CD"Service

AETA News

Second annual AETA Regional Conference of NY area held Nov 26 at Hunter College Playhouse, NY set up organization Region 14 to cover NY, NJ and eastern Penn. of American Educational Theatre Association and named Melvin White, Brooklyn College, Region 14 Chairman.

"The Colleges and Theatre for Children" was discussed at confab opening session by Grace Stanistreet, Adelphi College, Wallace Gray, Hunter, Nellie McCaslin, Mills College, Nancy Foell Swortzell, Rutgers, Melvin White, Brooklyn.

"The Future of Theatre in the Secondary Schools" was discussed by Laurence Olvin, High School of Performing Arts, NYC, Bernard Boressoff, South Senior H.S. Great Neck, NY, John Hammerly, Scarsdale, NY H.S, Jacob Weiser, High School of Performing Arts, Robert Whiting, Stamford, Conn, H.S.

"New Playwrights and Colleges" was discussed by William Vorenburg, NYU, John Gassner, Yale, Robert Barrows, playwright, Janet Cohn, Brand & Brandt, and Robert Dierlam.

College production techniques were illustrated by scenes from Arms and the Man by Hunter College Theatre Workshop and The Contrast by Hofstra College Dept of Theatre & Speech.

College Theatre

Fordham University Mimes & Mummers production of Death Watch by Jean Genet and No Exit by Jean Paul Sartre planned for Dec 2-4 banned by Rev Victor R Yanitelli, vice president of Student Affairs

"Styles of Directing" being taught by Stuart Vaughan, artistic director of Phoenix Theatre, at Brooklyn College this term.

Community Theatres

The Flowering Peach is next production of Company of Four, Chicago.

Danger from the Sky, a new science fiction play by George Reissieb will be presented by Tophatters, Dec 2-3 at St Felix St Playhouse, Brooklyn, Robert Carson director.

Winter Repertory

Mister Roberts with Eddie Bracken and Frank McHugh starts two week run at Casa Manana, Fort Worth. Current bill is The Women with Laraine Day and Marguerite Chapman... Waiting for Godot with Mickey Deems being presented at Charles St Playhouse, Boston... Solid Gold Cadillac with Martha Raye extended for fifth week to Dec 11 at Drury Lane, Chicago.

Playhouses

Garrick Theatre, Chicago, lost court case to halt razing... WarrenTheatre, on Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, being razed this week.

$1,500,000 received and pledged for National Cultural Center opening campaign to raise $30 million to build outside shell of project.

Road Tours

Michael Bryant to leave Five Finger Exercise Dec 3 at end of Detroit run, returning to London to replace Alec Guinness in title role of Ross.

London

James Thurber will appear in London production of A Thurber Carnival starting in Feb... The Mousetrap passed eighth birthday at Ambassadors Theatre, reaching 3319th performance Nov 28. New leading man is Gordon Whiting.

Australia

The Music Man tour opens in in Sydney Dec 13 starring Laurie Franks ...Old Vic tour with Vivien Leigh in Twelfth Night and an adaptation of La Dame aux Camelias due next summer.

Forthcoming Road Tours

Once There Was a Russian- Wilmington 1/18, Philadelphia 1/23.

13 Daughters- New Haven- 12/29 Boston 1/9, Philadelphia 1/29

How to Make a Man- Detroit 12/29, Cincinatti- Shubert 1/2

Calendar- Tryout Openings

Critic's Choice-Shubert, Boston 11/28

Do Re Mi- Colonial, Boston 11/29

Calendar- Current Tours

Andersonville Trial-Springfield, Ill 11/28

At Drop of Hat- Hartford, Los Angeles 11/21

Conquering Hero- Washington, D. C. 11/28

Destry Rides Again-Curran San Francisco 11/7

Fiorello! -Little Rock, Ark 11/28-30

Five Finger Exercise-Shubert Detroit 11/21

Love & Libel- Wilbur, Boston 11/21

Majority of One-Erlanger, Chicago 9/26

Music Man- Music Hall, Kansas City 11/28

My Fair Lady- Ford's Baltimore 11/21

Once Upon A Mattress-Muncipal, St Louis 11/29

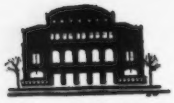
Pleasure of His Company El Paso- 11/29-30

Raisin in the Sun- Royal Alexandria, Toronto 11/14.

Three Penny Opera- Music Box, Los Angeles

Wildcat- Erlanger, Philadelphia 11/21

World of Suzie Wong- Forrest, Philadelphia 11/28



FAMOUS FIRST NIGHTS

A Connecticut Yankee- Vanderbilt- 11/3/27. 8 pros- and 2 cons- Herald Tribune, Post -filed on new musical adaptation of Mark Twain's Americanized story of King Arthur and Camelot with book by Herbert Fields, music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Lorenz Hart. Produced by Lew Fields-Lyle Andrews, directed by Alexander Leftwich, dances staged by Busby Berkely with William Gaxton, Constance Carpenter, Nana Bryant, William Norris. Original production ran 418 performances. 1943 revival presented by Rodgers at Beck ran 135 performances with Dick Foran and Vivienne Segal. It contained revised topical lyrics and several new songs, including " To Keep My Love Alive". Hart died two weeks after opening of revival following an attack of pneumonia.

Times- J Brooks Atkinson- Novel amusement in best of taste, fresh and lilting songs in unhackneyed score, well turned lyrics and intelligent book.

Herald Tribune-Percy Hammond- Lovely dancing girls, costumes and five alluring songs nicest things in show with tedious book constant reiteration of the burlesque lingo of King Arthur's court.

Mirror- Robert Coleman- Decidedly novel and tuneful divertissement, sprightly tunes, topical lyrics, funny book. Gaxton deserves all superlatives, Carpenter adorable.

World- Alexander Woollcott-Rodgers head full of tunes most valuable contribution, book not as funny as it ought to be, formula talk becomes trifle fatiguing.

Post- John Anderson- show considerably below trio's Peggy Ann which critic didn't like much either. Book embarrassingly feeble, more highhat than madcap.

Sun- Gilbert Gabriel- Fresh and abundant lark, a truly relishable and rememerable score.

Journal-Hans Stengel- Beautiful scenes, excellent dancing, competent acting make play entertaining despite lack of strong libretto with slim portion of humor.

NATIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE.

1960 National Theatre Conference was held Nov 25-26 at Hotel Piccadilly, NYC and considered the general topic "Problems of the Critic in American Theatre." Opening discussion on " Basic Drama Criticism" head comments by John Gassner, George Freedley, John Beaufort, Henry Hewes. Session on"Out of Town" and "Off Broadway Criticism" featured Gassner, Hewes, Elinor Hughes, Jay Carmody, Harlowe Hoyt. Tom Dash, Women's Wear Daily and current president of NY Drama Critics Circle gave the luncheon address.

Afternoon sessions included "Producer Looks at Drama Criticism" with Lawrence Langer, "Playwright looks at Drama Criticism" with Robert Anderson and Howard Teichman, "Director Looks at Drama Criticism" with Harold Clurman, Jack Landau, Herbert Berghof, and "Actor Looks at Drama Criticism" with Uta Hagen, Morris Carnovsky and Herbert Berghof.

LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Deep Are the Roots was scheduled to close over week-end... Theatre shortage will force West Side Story to close Dec 10... Camelot advance sale reported at over $3 million, 145 ticket buyers were on line the first day of ticket sale before 10 AM... Epitaph for George Dillon revival planned for last season will be presented on Dec 28 at Actors Playhouse by George Morrison-Edward Hastings-Richard Lipsett, Morrison directing cast headed by James Patterson, Julie Follansbee, Betty Oakes... Ballet Ballads set for Jan 4 at East 74th St Theatre presented by Ethel Madsen Watt... Honey Sanders signed for 13 Daughters ... The Queen and the Rebels by Ugo Betti directed by Gene Frankel with Viveca Lindfors due in Feb... The Caretaker by Harold Pinter, which was set for Feb at Miller Theatre, postponed until next season... Mary K Frank elected president of New Dramatists Committee, Rea Warg executive director.

Dream Play- Theatre East (211 E 60) 11/22)- 4 pro Times, Herald Tribune, Post, World Telegram & Sun- and 1 con- Journal American- filed on 1902 August Strindberg drama adapted and staged by John Bowman, presented by Voyager Productions with George Sawaya, Joseph Daubenas, Valentine. Pro majority had many reservations but all applauded gallant try on difficult production in a tiny playhouse, while sole con voter just marked it off as bad. Taubman, Times. found 60 year old play odd, perplexing and disquieting, more advanced that much of today's avant garde drama, and the production often becoming a cari - cature of itself. Morgenstern, Herald Tribune, rated it on the whole as vivid, fast-paced and excellently organized, with considerable help from the players. Watts, Post, mildly approved maddening drama for its vagueness and obscurity of its imagination, in which the current revival manages to cast a few spells, though far from brings out best of tormented dramatic fantasy. Post reviewer reported that WTS colleague was almost stabbed in an early scene. Aston, WTS, didn't mention the near accident, but did note that confines of basement playhouse put actresses close by, while unreal play struck boldly at imagination and emotion. Dissenter McClain, Journal American, is utterly baffled why anyone should have revived play with dreary mish-mash that could only bewilder and depress. Critic suggested that there must be many new authors who could have been less dismal for less money. Adaptor- director Bowman is also responsible for adaption and direction of revival of Strindberg's Dance of Death currently at Key Playhouse (4 St Marks).

The Premise- Premise-(154 Bleecker) 11/22. 2 pros- Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 cons- Times, Herald Tribune, Post- filed on new "improvised sketch" program presented by Theodore Flicker-Allan Mankoff, directed by Flicker with Tom Aldredge, George Segal, Joan Darling, Dolores Welber. Audience provides suggestions which cast improvises sketches, food and drink is available during the show. Affirmative voters enjoyed informal theatre-cafe evening and uniformly excellent, clever cast, while negative voters thought lack of preparation was major handicap of the talented performers. Lapole, Journal American, enjoyed clever, witty, imaginative quality. Morello, WTS, wasn't sure if it was theatre or a non-alcoholic night club but rated it very cozy and great fun either way. Con appraiser Calta, Times, feared that swift-witted cast do not have the gift or talent to carry off their various business, the comic antics parlor capers not satire. Kerr, Herald Tribune, okayed prepared items, but thought for more than half evening cast was forced to force. Herridge, Post, agreed that prepared skits were funny while others seemed more suitable for parlor games. Flicker previously presented successful "improvised theatre" programs at Crystal Palace, St Louis and Compass, Chicago.